

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 22, 2006, has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the outstanding election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct inventions: claims 15-19 drawn to a multilayer signal routing device; and claims 1-14 drawn to a method for routing one or more conductive traces between a plurality of electronic components in a multilayer signal routing device.

The Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this election/restriction requirement and hereby requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this election/restriction requirement. As required, however, the Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-14 for prosecution in the event that this election/restriction requirement is made final.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121, restriction is appropriate if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one

application. As set forth in MPEP § 802.01, inventions are independent if there is no disclosed relationship between the two or more subjects disclosed, and inventions are distinct if two or more subjects as disclosed are capable of separate manufacture, use, or sale as claimed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner attempts to explain how the multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 15-19 is distinct from the method for routing in a multilayer signal routing as defined in claims 1-14. However, the Examiner fails to explain how the multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 15-19 is independent from the method for routing in a multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 1-14. That is, it is clear that the multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 15-19 and the method for routing in a multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 1-14 are both directed to routing conductive traces in multilayer signal routing devices. Thus, the multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 15-19 and the method for routing in a multilayer signal routing device as defined in claims 1-14 are related and are not independent from each other. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the election/restriction requirement is improper, and the withdrawal

of such election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made.

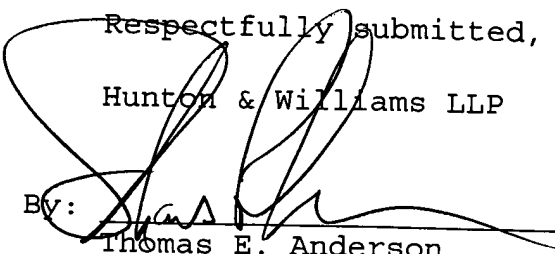
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Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.: 57983.000130
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Respectfully submitted,

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